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LETTER DATED 11 JULY 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ANGOLA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour, on instructions of my Government, to bring to the attention of the Security Council over which you preside, some concerns with regard to the Angolan peace process; we are asking for your special attention especially today when the Security Council is called upon to discuss the situation prevailing in Angola at the present stage of implementation of the Lusaka Protocol. As you may be aware, in the past 48 hours, the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA) has assumed some attitudes with regard to issues vital to the Lusaka Protocol and if these issues are not quickly resolved, they can endanger the Angolan peace process and result in very serious setbacks, with consequences that are very difficult to foresee at this moment.

Therefore, I wish to bring to the attention of the Security Council the following:

1. UNITA has refused to incorporate its selected military staff into the Angolan Armed Forces (FAA) and the units of the General Chief of Staff of the army.

2. UNITA has informed the Joint Commission and the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) that the majority of its military have been selected up to now for integration into FAA, but they have refused for unknown reasons.

3. UNITA has decided to suspend sending a delegation to Luanda to take part in the discussions on the partial revision of the Angolan constitutional law. In our view, those discussions will advance the work on the issues that were concluded in the past 20 days.

As you may realize, some of the more sensitive questions of the Lusaka Protocol may be a source of vague discussions as well as an obstacle in this crucial phase of the Angolan peace process.

The Government of Angola will seek to use maximum flexibility so that it can contribute to overcoming the difficulties referred to but since the true intentions of UNITA are unknown, we would like to express from the start our scepticism as far as finalizing these issues is concerned if we are to take into account the timetable established to finalize all the questions leading to the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol.

As you know, we intend to form the Government of National Reconciliation in the first half of August.

I am requesting you to circulate the present letter as a document of the Security Council, convinced that at its meeting today, 11 July 1996, the Council will assume a position that will exert pressure and oblige UNITA to fulfil without delay its obligations under the Lusaka Protocol.

(Signed) Afonso VAN-DUNEM "MBINDA"
Ambassador
Permanent Representative